



## RICHMOND REFLECTIONS

Mayor discusses  
2021 achievements

Richmond City Hall

03

Despite the continuing uncertainty and changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, Mayor Malcolm Brodie says Richmond was still able to move forward on many projects.

*Photo courtesy City of Richmond*





Photo courtesy Aberdeen Centre

# The mythical story of Chinese New Year

By **SAMUEL CHENG**  
Reporter

Chinese New Year is happening on Feb. 1 this year. Have you ever wondered about the origin of Chinese New Year and how it all started? It is said to have originated from a mythical tale.

There are many different myths, but the most popular version is about the mythical beast called the Nian (the pronunciation is the same as the Chinese word for year). Nian is known to have terrorized the villages in China eating livestock, crops and people and causing destruction. People were afraid but there was nothing that they could do to protect themselves.

A wise man discovered that the Nian was scared of loud noises and the colour red, so he shared this knowledge with the villagers. When word spread that the Nian was nearby, the villagers made loud crackling noises by burning bamboo and put up red scrolls on their windows and doors. The Nian never returned and the villagers celebrated their success.

The traditions and customs have passed on throughout the dynasties of ancient China. In the Zhou dynasty, one of the customs was to offer sacrifices and worship to the ancestors of the gods. In the Wei and Jin dynasties, the tradition of cleaning houses, having dinner with family and staying up late on Chinese New Year's Eve became prevalent and is a tradition that continues today.

Later on, during the Tang Song and Qing dynasties, celebration activities included setting off firecrackers, dragon dancing and eating dumplings.

There are some differences between the Western culture's New Year and Chinese New Year. The Western culture's New Year takes place on the first day of January in the Gregorian calendar. However, Chinese New Year is the first day of the lunisolar calendar, which is determined by the cycles of the moon.

The date of Chinese New Year varies from year to year, but it usually falls between late January and early February. Similar to the Western zodiac signs, there are 12 different animal signs that correspond with years instead of months. The Chinese animal zodiac signs are in the following order: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog and pig. The year 2022 is the year of the Tiger, which symbolizes strength, power and bravery.

Other countries aside from China also celebrate Chinese New Year. Asian countries such as Japan, Korea,

Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam all celebrate the Lunar New Year. The term Lunar New Year is a more inclusive and culturally diverse term that is more applicable in non-Chinese countries. Nowadays, the term Chinese New Year is used interchangeably with Lunar New Year and Spring Festival.

While there is a seven-day statutory holiday in China, other Asian countries like Korea and Singapore shorten it to three days.

Aside from the differences, there are many similarities as well.

For example, red lanterns and spring couplets can be found on households' doors and windows. People also enjoy the dragon and lion dancing setting off fireworks and crackers, as well as giving and receiving red envelopes (also known as Hong Bao).

People may also wish each other Gong Hei Fat Choy or Gong Xi Fa Cai (the Cantonese and Mandarin ways of delivering wishes for wealth and prosperity).



Photo via Wikimedia Commons

Chinese New Year, Feb. 1 this year, kicks off the Year of the Tiger.

# Mayor discusses Richmond's 2021 highlights

By FLORENCE GORDON  
Contributor

Mayor Malcolm Brodie sat down with the *Richmond Sentinel* and TV Host Jim Gordon in a fireside chat to talk about 2021 and how council continued to steer the city through the challenges of COVID-19.

## Community safety

Council has worked hard to increase the complement of RCMP by 51 officers and Fire-Rescue by 36 personnel to ensure everyone's safety. The city added 110 traffic safety cameras. In addition, a policy was passed that requires city staff and council members to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to return to the workplace.

## Finances

A tax increase of 3.86 per cent was proposed to cover the additional expense for the increase of RCMP and Fire-Rescue personnel. The increase also enables the city to maintain the same level of services, and allows for an e-commerce dispatch service. It includes a one per cent levy that is put aside each year for facility improvements.

## Climate

With the intense heat last summer, the city had to set up a number of cooling centres for people needing assistance. The recent flooding in the Lower Mainland also raised public concern in Richmond.

The city spends \$12 to \$15 million a year on dikes and drainage systems, monitoring all the elements that come into play and investing yearly in our systems now rather than waiting. As Brodie explained: pay for it now or pay a lot more later if we don't.

## Environment and sustainability

The city introduced a bylaw that comes into effect this March to eliminate the use of plastic bags and styrofoam containers. When the city formulated a plan two years ago, it was one of the first cities in B.C. to take action. The city has an extensive sustainability report to ensure Richmond is reducing its environmental impact.

## Child care

As the city develops, it has had the ability to add more child care facilities. Recently a 2,322 square metre (25,000 square foot) community child care hub for children of all ages was built in North Richmond. Despite the efforts, Brodie said there is still more to be done.

## Partnerships: food recovery project

This project includes 60 business partners of-



Photo courtesy City of Richmond  
Mayor Malcolm Brodie.

fering not-for-profit redistribution of food while providing dignified access for people in need of food.

## Partnerships: RCMP project

The "Hate has no place" initiative was created to address the increase in racial hate crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Economic development programs

The pandemic brought communication challenges, but technology helped to keep the city connected to people and businesses. A business resilience program was developed to support businesses, and a restaurant patio program was established and extended to spring 2022 to support the restaurant industry, with a study underway for a permanent program.

## Shelters and homeless programs

The city has established several locations to support homeless people. Brighthouse Pavilion provides those in need with showers and basic supplies. A winter program opened up community centres and two shelters at Ironwood and the old Minoru seniors centre. The city is developing a larger long-term facility plus two emergency shelters.

## Lansdowne Centre

This 50-acre project will be developed in five phases and will include a 10-acre park.

## Steveston Highway and Highway 99

The government is working to improve traffic

flow on Highway 99. The proposal today is for an eight-lane tunnel with two overpasses over Highway 99.

## Affordable housing

In every development of 60 or more units, the city has increased the share that must be low-end market rental from 10 per cent to 15 per cent.

## Tourism, art and culture

Putting on events is not possible at the same level as in the past. The city continued its Doors Open Richmond program, which encourages people to discover places around the city that were previously unknown to them.

The Culture Days event received national recognition, and Richmond was named among the top 10 cities in Canada and top five cities of a similar size.

## Social media

The Let's Talk Richmond program allows the public to communicate with city staff and council through Zoom, letters, email and telephone. Let's Talk Richmond allows for specific consultation and public input.

## Planning and development

The people of Richmond have expressed a desire for more transportation choices including bike lanes, pedestrian walking areas and participation in a provincial pilot program for e-scooters.

## River Parkway

Before 2010 the city purchased the Railway Avenue right-of-way from Sea Island Way to Steveston Highway. One area was paved for bicycles, scooters, rollerblading and hiking. A second area from Gilbert Road to Cambie Road moved the traffic off River Road, providing more efficient movement of traffic. A third project is to develop a 40-acre park along the river, extending from Dinsmore Bridge halfway to Cambie Road with a completion date of 2024-2025.

## Summary

The city undertook many initiatives and programs in 2021. Notwithstanding COVID-19, council has addressed the various needs of Richmondites. Richmond continues to grow as a city, and the plan for 25 years has always been to densify the City Centre area along the public transportation systems. The city is being proactive and looking forward to its plans for 2022.

To watch the video interview in full, go to [richmondsentinel.ca/videos](https://richmondsentinel.ca/videos)

*Florence Gordon is a contributing writer to the Richmond Sentinel.*



## The Sentinel turns five

The first edition of the *Richmond Sentinel* was published in February 2017.

It contained a story about the new acute care tower at Richmond Hospital—now scheduled to be completed in 2029—and a Gateway Theatre play review. The inaugural issue also expressed the *Sentinel's* aim, which remains the same: to share local stories and bring people together.

The *Richmond Sentinel* team continues to be grateful for the support of readers and community members.

## Calls for Lulu Awards submissions

The City of Richmond is seeking submissions for the Lulu Awards, its urban design excellence awards program which takes place every four years.

The Lulu Awards recognize, celebrate and inspire excellence in urban design in the city. Design awards will be granted for exceptional projects that represent visionary thinking and "raise the bar" for design excellence.

This year, there are 11 categories that submissions may fall under:

### Buildings:

1. Residential (single-family, coach house or duplex, including innovative renovations)
  2. Residential (townhouse)
  3. Residential and Mixed-use (mid rise)
  4. Residential and Mixed-use (high rise)
  5. Commercial
  6. Industrial
  7. Public and Institutional Buildings
- ### Open Space:
8. Public and Institutional Open Space
  9. Landscape Innovation
  10. Ecological Design and Innovation
  11. Universal Design and Innovation

Private and public sector projects are eligible for an urban design award if they have been approved and completed up to five years prior to the awards year.



*Photo courtesy City of Richmond*

**Submit nominations for the city's Lulu Awards through Feb. 28.**

Submissions for awards can be submitted by a project owner, a member of the team that is associated with the project, or a member of the general public.

Submissions must be received by the city by 5 p.m. on Feb. 28. All entries must meet submission requirements.

For more information on the Lulu Awards for urban design, including the submission requirements and entry forms, visit [richmond.ca/luluawards](http://richmond.ca/luluawards)

## Richmond fitness centres reopen

In accordance with the latest B.C. public health orders, the city reopened its fitness centres on Jan. 20.

Customers can again enjoy the benefits of the fitness facilities on a drop-in basis. Social distancing measures are in place, which limits the number of people permitted in the fitness areas at any given time.

Group fitness classes also returned at facilities throughout the city. Pre-registration is required for these classes and, again, social distancing and reduced capacity limits are in place.

Proof of vaccination and a government-issued photo ID must still be shown and scanned for participation in most programs, including fitness, sports, swimming and adult recreational classes. The city also reminds everyone not to enter a facility if they are feeling sick, and that masks must be worn in all public areas and are encour-

aged while exercising. These measures remain in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect community health and safety.

In addition to fitness, a large number of programs and activities are available including:

- recreational classes for all ages including dance, arts, crafts, music, photography, culture or travel education and classes
- sports, including adult sport and drop-ins
- pools, public swimming and Aquafit
- public skating

Membership pass holders can use their pass for drop-in and pre-registered classes. Details of the various facility times, classes and other information are on the city website and will be shared via social media. For information on the provincial public health orders, go to [gov.bc.ca/covid19restrictions](http://gov.bc.ca/covid19restrictions)

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# Wetlands Workforce team tackles Richmond shoreline

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

Richmond's shorelines are home to many birds, fish, and other animals. And the recent removal of about 3,175 kilograms (7,000 pounds) of garbage and debris will hopefully help that ecosystem thrive.

Thanks to the work of the BC Wildlife Federation's Wetlands Workforce team, a group of six cleaned up a stretch of the Fraser River between late September and early December 2021. In all, they removed about 9,072 kilograms (20,000 pounds) of debris. The final three weeks of that cleanup were spent in Richmond, where the group worked from the north side of the dike all the way down to Garry Point.

"The river is pushing out the larger pieces of plastic as they hit the ocean and the shoreline; they're getting mechanically degraded against the rocks and the wood," says Brianna Iwabuchi, the crew's field coordinator. "The smaller they get, the more likely they are to be ingested by animals living in these ecosystems. It has an effect throughout the ecosystems, because as soon as it gets into the food web everything's going to be affected."

Locals who are interested in helping out can seek out community groups who coordinate their own cleanups, or get a group of friends together to walk along the dike and pick up garbage. Support is available through the city's Partners for Beautification program.

"A lot of groups come to us and want to get involved, and we want to empower them," explains Magnus Sinclair, the city's coordinator of parks programs.

While the city's waste management team patrols the dikes regularly, Sinclair says the area that was cleaned up by the B.C. Wildlife Federation team is technically outside city property on Crown land. Although the city encourages involvement in local clean-ups, safety can be a concern in some areas like the west dike. If groups' proposals are not feasible or safe, Sinclair says he tries to connect them with other groups or find alternative ways for them to help out.

"The B.C. Wildlife Federation cleanup was a really great example of how community partners and stakeholders who are invested in the future of Richmond and its sustainability initiatives can work together to achieve these goals that really overlap," Sinclair adds.

The recent clean-up was made possible by a one-time grant from the B.C. government's Healthy Watersheds Initiative. The BC Wildlife Foundation is hoping to secure more funding for future projects.

Crew supervisor Adam Luke says the king tide presented some complications, although the team only had to take one day off due to the inclement weather.



Photo by Hannah Scott

**Richmond's shorelines received substantial clean-up efforts late last year thanks to a provincial grant, although work is always ongoing to preserve these crucial areas.**

About 80 per cent of garbage collected was Styrofoam. Luke says the removal of this material helps to keep microplastics from breaking down to a very small size and entering the food chain. Plastic bags and birthday balloons can be eaten by birds, especially those that have jellyfish in their diets.

***If you're going along the dike and see a piece of garbage, pick it up. If you don't, it's unlikely someone else does.***

— Adam Luke

Among the other materials collected were several surprising things: two brand-new car bumpers, about 20 tires, and a large ice tote like the ones that would be used for commercial fishing.

Given the scope of this project, Luke says it would be beneficial to repeat it every other year. Getting rid of single-use plastics or creating more biodegradable products would help to get ahead of the problem.

"A lot of my crew was fresh out of school. Leading the project on-site was a great experience for me," he says. "For us it was a great opportunity to start and finish a project. We're all environmentalists, we all come from some sort of conservationist background in schooling and passion. Just to get out there and see the impact humans have had, it was nice to have this one-time opportunity. We'll see what comes up in the future based on grants or public interest as well."

The efforts of community members are also helpful in preserving the environment. Luke says every step taken makes an impact, and that even one wetland being cleaned up is something to be proud of.

"The No. 1 and 2 easy things people can do: (firstly,) make sure your own habits are addressing the issue. The more single-use plastics you use, the more likely they are to end up in landfill. Even if you're not the one throwing them away, there are hundreds of ways your piece of garbage can end up in the river," says Luke.

"(Secondly,) if you're going along the dike and see a piece of garbage, pick it up. If you don't, it's unlikely someone else does."

People who are interested in getting involved with local clean-ups can look into the city's Partners for Beautification program or, for youth and teens, Richmond Green Ambassadors.

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# Food bank helping people through tough times

By **SAMUEL CHENG**  
Reporter

The Richmond Food Bank is nearing its 40th birthday, a testament to its importance in the community.

A food bank is a dynamic hub that provides food assistance, advocacy and related support to members of the community who are in need. Staying true to its name, the food bank is mainly responsible for distributing and delivering food items to the individuals within the community.

The Richmond Food Bank provides food distribution to around 2,300 people every month. Aside from distribution, the food bank is a fantastic platform for students, adults and even retired individuals who are looking to enrich their volunteer experiences.

Executive director Hajira Hussain says volunteers are the food bank's biggest asset. Picking up donations, sorting and categorizing goods, and distributing the food items are some of the tasks performed by volunteers.

The Richmond Food Bank also plays an important role in the environment by recovering food from its retail partners. In 2020, the Richmond Food Bank was able to provide 725,748 kilograms (1.6 million pounds) of food to locals. This number includes both donations and recovered food, which would otherwise have ended up in the landfill.

The food bank offers a home delivery program for individuals who are homebound due to long term disability, injuries or illness. Prior to the pandemic, about 20 households were enlisted in the home delivery program. However, after the emergence of COVID-19, the number of households enlisted in the program tripled to 60.

Delivery frequency has increased from once per week to three times per week. This program is made possible by social workers, healthcare professionals and volunteers.

From March 2020 to September 2021, the food



*Photo courtesy Richmond Food Bank*

**The Richmond Food Bank's volunteers are a huge asset, says its executive director.**

bank changed the way people were receiving food. People received pre-packed hampers instead of being able to pick and choose their preferred food items. However, after September 2021 the food bank returned to its pre-pandemic system.

In response to the pandemic, the Richmond Food Bank has multitudes of safety measures in place for its volunteers and service users. These measures include plexiglass, physical distancing, mask wearing, sanitization of high contact surfaces, as well as cones and markings on the floor to guide members of the public. Volunteers were also provided with hand sanitizer, gloves, and personal protective equipment.

As a community and as individuals, there are three ways in which we can contribute and support our local food bank.

The first method is financial donation, which is the preferred method because it offers the food bank the ability to buy in bulk at a discounted price

from retail and wholesale partners. Additionally, the money donated to the food bank is used towards perishable food items such as fresh produce, milk and eggs.

The second method is food donation, where only non-perishable food items are accepted. These items can include canned protein, canned vegetables, pasta sauce, rice, cereal, peanut butter and more.

People are encouraged to check the food bank website for the most needed items before taking a trip to the grocery store. Also, the food bank can only distribute food items that are within 12 months of their best before date. Keeping this in mind can help shorten the time volunteers spend going through and sorting items.

Thirdly, while volunteers are always welcomed, the Richmond Food Bank is not currently taking any new volunteers as it tries to limit the number of people within the building.

## Pay parking reinstated at B.C. hospitals

Pay parking will be reinstated at Richmond Hospital and other B.C. health authority sites on March 4.

"Maintaining across-the-board free hospital parking is making it hard for patients, staff, volunteers and visitors to find a spot, as non-hospital users are taking advantage of the situation to park for free while conducting business that's not hospital related," said Health Minister Adrian Dix. "These hospital parking spots must be available for those who need them most."

In all, \$78 million in parking fees have been waived since April 1, 2020, when pay parking was suspended.

Free parking at provincial health-care facilities will continue for patients receiving dialysis treatment or undergoing cancer treatment in acute care programs, and for parents or caregivers of children staying in the hospital overnight. Volunteers will still be able to park for free, and financial hardship provisions will continue to be managed on a case-by-case basis by health authorities.

Parking rates have been frozen for more than four years, and this freeze will continue.

Meanwhile, pay parking stations are also being modernized to make greater use of technology so patients and visitors can manage their

parking without returning to their vehicles or using a meter. Health authorities are introducing touch-free payment options and apps to make the process safer and convenient.

For people without a smartphone or who choose not to use an app, additional parking terminals have been installed in common areas of some acute-care hospitals and other locations so parking can be managed without returning to a vehicle.

Health authorities will continue using methods that were already in place to allow free parking such as dash passes, e-coupons or reimbursement.

# Christmas Fund team reviews 2021 campaign

By HANNAH SCOTT  
Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The 2021 Richmond Christmas Fund campaign has come to a close after helping 2,321 people.

While this number is lower than that recorded in each of the last two years—2,915 in 2019 and 2,866 in 2020—it nevertheless represents the dedication of locals to ensure their neighbours have a merrier Christmas.

People were qualified for support using a combination of virtual and in-person registration on nine registration days. Toy bags were prepared for families, based on wish lists from children. Distribution happened over seven days and saw people being handed items including toys, grocery vouchers and gift cards.

This year's Christmas Fund theme was "The Practical and the Magical." With this theme in mind, the team behind the program wanted to emphasize both the planning that goes into the operation and the community generosity that makes it possible.

Despite the cancellation of the Christmas Fund's signature event *A Not So Silent Night* for the second consecutive year, 220 people participated in an online auction that raised over \$46,000. *Windows of Hope* at the Richmond Auto Mall couldn't happen either, but dealerships, suppliers and sponsors raised a record \$40,500.

This year, eight Angel Donors gave \$10,000 or more. The Richmond Auto Mall was named one of two Star Donors whose gifts exceeded \$20,000.

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Photo courtesy Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives  
Every year, the Richmond Christmas Fund helps thousands of locals in need.



Photo submitted

Beckham Xu, 14, appreciates the volunteer opportunities in Richmond.

## Teenage Richmondite motivated by volunteering

By HANNAH SCOTT  
Local Journalism Initiative reporter

A Grade 9 student at McRoberts secondary, 14-year-old Beckham Xu's favourite part of the city is its wide range of volunteer opportunities.

Xu currently volunteers with groups including the South Arm Community Centre's youth council and the Vancouver International Volunteer Association.

"I really like to volunteer because I can meet lots of good friends. I'm an outgoing person (and) that's very useful in volunteering. Also, I think I can learn a lot," he says.

Xu, who moved here from Shanghai in 2018, says his mom chose Richmond as the family's destination because of its academic background and international school system. After working hard to learn English, he also struggled with homesickness, particularly with the onset of the pandemic. But his family has settled into the city well.

With more free time during the pandemic, Xu has been working on his piano skills and also recently attended a Model G20 summit.

While he likes all his classes at school, his favourite is social studies. And, in addition to his English speaking and vocabulary skills, he says the most important thing he's learned here so far is information about different cultures, as well as the history of Canada's Indigenous peoples.

After high school, Xu plans to stay in Canada and complete post-secondary education at a school like the University of British Columbia or University of Toronto. He thinks his mom and grandma will probably stay for a while as well.

"Originally my grandma came here to visit me to see how Canada is, and if everything is doing well, but because of the pandemic she is stuck here," he adds.

When he's not studying, volunteering or working on hobbies, Xu's favourite areas to visit around the city are Richmond Centre and Fisherman's Wharf.

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# SPCA reflects on one year of Richmond animal control

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

After a year of overseeing many elements of animal control in Richmond, it's been relatively smooth sailing for the BC SPCA.

The handover of responsibility, which happened in February 2021, saw the BC SPCA assuming roles that the Regional Animal Protection Society (RAPS) had handled since 2017. The SPCA became responsible for animal control issues like aggressive dogs; animal-related noise complaints; and a section of the parks bylaw that covers dogs that are off-leash or bothering wildlife in parks. It also manages any deceased animals as well as attending as many wildlife calls as possible and some basic welfare calls.

The city's new animal shelter is currently under construction, and once complete will be operated by the SPCA. During construction, Richmond animals are being housed at the Vancouver shelter.

"If we have a stray dog that we've received a call about, the first thing we do is scan it for a microchip, or if someone has found the dog, sometimes we ask if they can bring it to a local vet so the vet can scan the microchip. We try to do it in the field right away so people don't have to go all the way to Vancouver to retrieve their pet," explains Corrie Bownick, municipal animal services manager with the BC SPCA.

The best thing people can do for their animal is to have some kind of permanent identification on them, like a microchip or tattoo. That way, if an animal is lost, its owner can be found quickly. It's also important to update address and phone number information on the microchip registry, or add information for a new pet owner if the pet has been adopted from someone else.

While Bownick says similar numbers of cats and dogs go missing, dogs are more often redeemed than cats. The SPCA also deals with other stray animals like guinea pigs, roosters and sheep.

Animals listed as strays are added to the BC Pet Search website and a full intake exam and vaccinations are done when an animal enters the SPCA's



Photo courtesy BC SPCA

**The BC SPCA took over some of Richmond's animal bylaws in February 2021, enabling it to help animals like Robb Stark the guinea pig who had been out in the snow before he was found by a resident.**

care. Most animals are held as strays for four days, although dogs have a longer hold time of seven days.

Animals not claimed within that time period will be spayed or neutered if necessary, as well as having other medical or veterinary needs attended to. They are then put up for adoption. Healthy adoptable animals are never euthanized.

Aside from helping animals directly, animal control officers can also connect people to resources like the pet food bank as well as answering questions about wildlife and bylaws. Bownick says the SPCA's mandate is to "educate first and enforce second."

Bownick adds that she's been touched by how much Richmonders care for the stray animals they come into contact with. One woman had a budgie in her home for a couple of days before calling the SPCA to come and get it. Another saw what she thought was a rabbit playing in the snow with her dog for a week.

"It turned out it was a very friendly guinea pig. She was able to contain it and bring it in," says Bownick. "He's fine, he's a lovely guinea pig with a bit of frostbite on his ear from being out in the snow."

She says those stories are among many that demonstrate locals' care and helpfulness.

"It's really been a pleasure for our team to work in Richmond," says Bownick. "It's a beautiful community full of animal lovers, and the feedback has been really positive."

City spokesperson Clay Adams says the transition of dog licensing and animal control bylaw enforcement has been seamless, with an increased focus on patrols and education.

"The BC SPCA record of professionalism speaks for itself and we are pleased with the performance of the officers, their interaction with city staff, and the overall management of the BC SPCA. This has certainly been a positive move for the community," says Adams.

*It's really been a pleasure  
for our team to work in  
Richmond.*

— Corrie Bownick

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# Fallen tree leads to hands-on lesson

*Blundell elementary students learn about environment, weather*

By HANNAH SCOTT

*Local Journalism Initiative reporter*

Blundell elementary students are using the Effects of November's massive rain event to learn about the environment and its impacts.

A fallen tree on the school's property led to a collaboration between classroom teacher Harrison Brown, teacher-librarian Isabel Chan and digital literacy consultant Ellen Reid, who created a unique educational offering for Grade 5 and 6 students.

"There definitely were some kids who experienced some flooding (at home), and we talked about that. In general there was a lot of excitement around what had happened and how it had happened," says Brown. "We really got a good look at the root system and we were trying to figure out if it was the wind or the excess water in the ground (that caused the tree to fall)."

Originally, Chan and Reid had plans to work with the class using "loose parts," a variety of small items that can be used by students to create pictures or stories to help visualize something or spark creativity.

***When I saw the tree,  
I said how about we nix  
our original plan and  
instead use this golden  
opportunity; it's such a  
teachable moment right  
on our school grounds.***

— Isabel Chan



*Photo by Isabel Chan*

**Students at Blundell elementary learned a valuable lesson about the environment with help from a tree that fell on their school grounds during November's storm.**

"When I saw the tree, I said how about we nix our original plan and instead use this golden opportunity; it's such a teachable moment right on our school grounds," says Chan. "So we got all the kids to put on their jackets, and got out the iPads, and started documenting."

Chan says the students were particularly engaged, and had many questions including the depth of the hole, what type of tree it was, why that tree fell as opposed to others, and how the weather caused the tree to fall.

"One way they measured the depth was with broken branches," she says. "We didn't expect it to be that deep, (because) when we looked at the root system it was quite short. Thankfully the damage was minimal, and (with) the day-to-day operations of our school it didn't affect us."

After taking photos outside with the school's set of iPads, students headed back inside and used the loose parts to create a scene of what had happened and work through their questions.

"(We used) the background knowledge that we discussed about the atmospheric river, and what we heard about what else had happened in Richmond and the Lower Mainland. Giving them that kind of context and combining that with the photos they had taken and the questions they had generated, (we synthesized) that into something they could create with themselves and with us to show their understanding" says Brown.

The new stools in the library, made from pieces of the tree's trunk, are another unexpected positive outcome of the event. Chan says she had students help her roll them into the library.

Principal Joanne Rooney says the activity's strength lies in the fact that it was authentic, real and tangible.

"It was so hands-on, and it reaches a whole variety of learners. It's not a piece of paper, it's not a video— it was real, touchable, smellable, observable," says Rooney.

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## Rapid test kits distributed for school staff

Recently, 200,000 rapid antigen test kits were shipped to the kindergarten-to-Grade 12 (K-12) sector for use by staff, teachers and administrators with symptoms of COVID-19.

Rapid antigen tests are an additional tool that can be used to support the continuity of learning in schools with the aim to reduce transmission of COVID-19.

The number of teaching and non-teaching staff will determine the number of tests received by each school district, independent schools

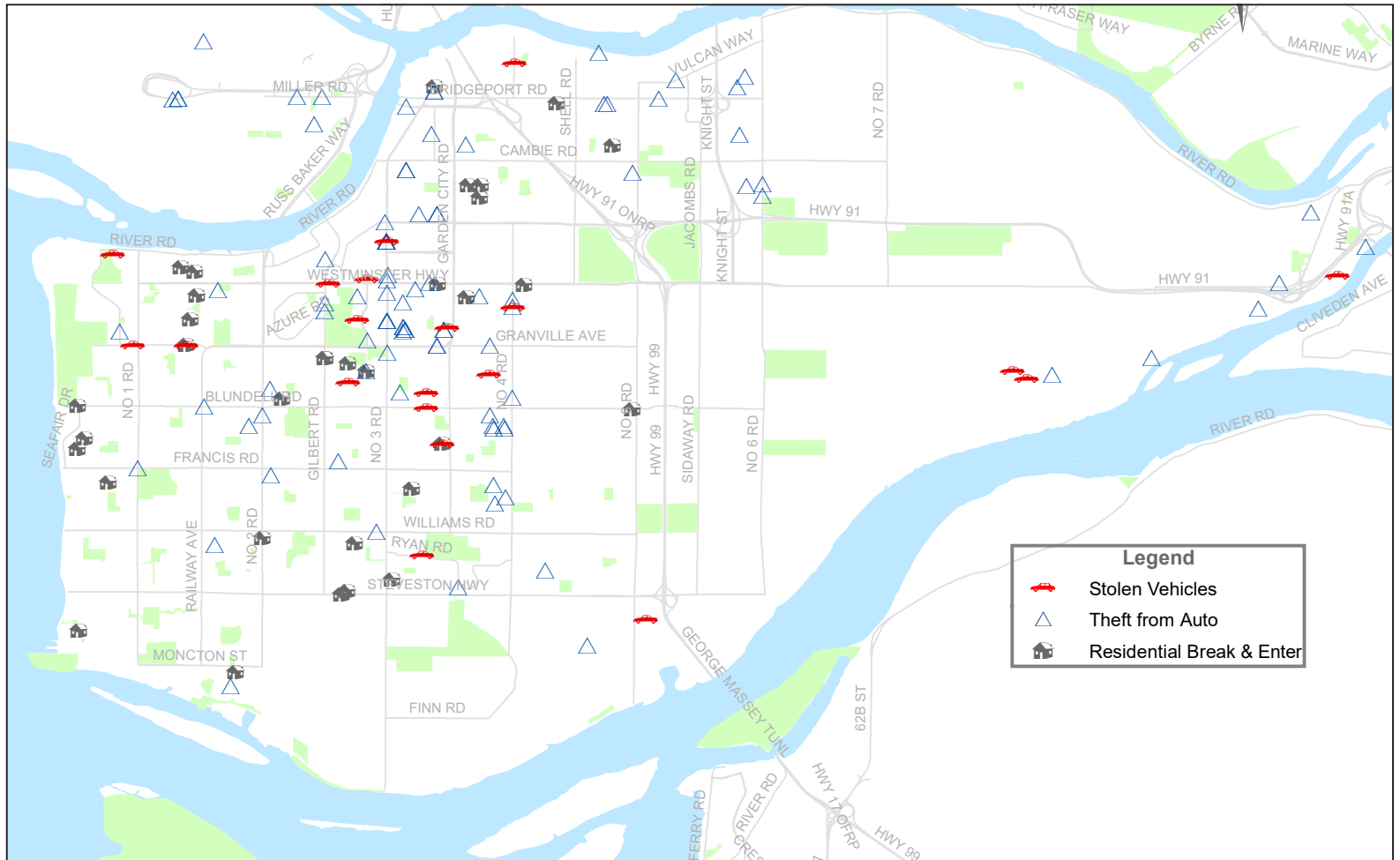
and First Nation schools. In B.C., there are approximately 86,700 public school employees, 16,000 employees of independent schools and 1,000 employees in First Nation schools.

The allocation of test kits for the K-12 sector was received from Artron Laboratories Inc., a Burnaby-based company, and is in addition to supplies provided to medical health officers in health authorities that will continue to be used to investigate clusters and outbreaks in schools.



# RCMP

## Crime Map Dec. 1 - 31, 2021



## Milk containers now returnable for a refund

Starting today (Feb. 1), British Columbians can return milk and milk-substitute beverage containers for a refund to reduce waste.

Shifting milk containers to the deposit-refund system will capture the millions of additional plastic and fibre-based containers that were otherwise being thrown out, such as those from restaurants, schools and offices that did not have access to the residential recycling system.

At the time of purchase, a refundable deposit of 10 cents will be paid for each eligible container. Consumers will get their deposit back when they return their containers.

Clean and rinsed milk and milk-substitute (e.g., oat, almond, soy) beverage containers purchased on or after Feb. 1 will be accepted by the deposit-refund program. These containers should no longer be placed in residential blue boxes.

Residents are encouraged to continue recycling containers that are not being added to the deposit-refund system, such as infant formula, meal replacement/dietary supplements, coffee cream, whipping cream, buttermilk or drinkable yogurt, through curb-side, multi-family or depot services.

Returning beverage containers for recycling supports the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan to prevent plastic waste, keep more waste out of landfills, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a cleaner, better future.

For a full list of accepted containers and the province-wide network of depots accepting them, go to [www.return-it.ca/beverage/products/](http://www.return-it.ca/beverage/products/)



Photo by Hannah Scott

People in B.C. will need to pay a refundable deposit of 10 cents for eligible milk and milk-substitute containers, but these can also be returned for a refund.



# CARHA Hockey World Cup postponed again

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE  
Reporter

Richmond was selected as the host city for the 2020 CARHA Hockey World Cup, but the event was postponed by the organization due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Established in 1975, CARHA Hockey is Canada's leading not-for-profit organization that provides resources tailored to the needs of individual leagues, tournaments, and referee associations. Its roles include helping leagues get ice contracts, medical insurance, team websites, standings, statistics and prizes.

Laurie Langois, CARHA's manager for new business and community engagement, says players are not just numbers—they're members. It is important for the organization to be involved in growing the community in a positive way, which it does by keeping the focus on hockey and showing the benefits of what it can do for communities across the nation.

CARHA's most prominent event is the Hockey World Cup, which is the largest adult recreational hockey tournament in the world. It attracts participants from across Canada, the United States, Asia, and Europe. Every four years, over 140 teams from 15-plus countries travel to the host city for the week-long event.

The event was postponed to 2021, then to 2022, and now to 2023.

"Because we've had to postpone, there were a lot of hard costs that were not recoverable,"

explains CARHA executive director Lori Lopez. "For example, we had office space, merchandise that was already branded and ready to go, we had signage, we had done all of our team recruitment. Back in 2020, we had over 145 teams registered for the event, supported (by) 15 different countries."

At the end of 2021, CARHA got \$250,000 from the province's Fairs, Festivals, and Events Recovery Fund. The fund provides one-time grants for up to 20 per cent of the total budget for an event.

"With that funding we can recover some of what we've lost, but also be able to go out with a strong marketing plan and hopefully recruit back up to 145 teams," says Lopez. "That equates to about 3,000 people coming into the community. In terms of economic benefit, there is an anticipated 12 million dollars coming into the community, so there's a significant ripple effect from that stimulus. The funding is a life-saver for us because (otherwise) we wouldn't have been able to deliver the same level of event that we've been known to do since 1996."

Lopez is also grateful for the help of local sponsors including Stanley's Grill, Lulu Island Winery, Molson Canadian and River Rock Casino.

"All of these local businesses have supported the event and we're really excited to bring participants and have them experience the business-es firsthand," says Lopez.

The event also aims to revitalize tourism in Richmond and provide an influx of support for local businesses that have been impacted by

lockdowns.

"The Richmond Olympic Oval is a venue like no other that we've seen and our participants will be very excited to play in an Olympic facility," says Lopez. "Our feature game is a televised event and that will be played at Minoru (Arena). It really is a community-supported event because in the end it's about camaraderie, sharing and experiencing what Richmond has to offer."

Through the event, CARHA makes charitable donations to the host city and in collaboration with local schools, elementary students will have the opportunity to "adopt a team."

"We provide the opportunity for classes to pick a country and pick a team, learn about their culture and their traditions, and then create signage and come out to the rinks with face paint. (This will) really make (players) feel like super stars while providing (students) a learning pillar for them to use in their curriculum."

CARHA is also encouraging people to use outdoor rinks with their new outdoor rink campaign.

People can submit a picture with a short written sentiment about their outdoor rink and be placed in the running to win \$1,000 towards next season's outdoor rink. Because many outdoor rinks are operated by volunteers or volunteer committees, you can nominate a person or a committee and express what they mean to you.

The *Richmond Sentinel* is the CARHA Hockey World Cup's official media sponsor. The rescheduled dates are March 19 to 26, 2023.



Photo courtesy CARHA

The CARHA Hockey World Cup has been postponed again and will now take place in March 2023.

# Young figure skater makes it to nationals

By ALLEN COOSEMANS  
Reporter

The spotlight is on Leah Lee, a 16-year-old figure skater who trains out of Richmond's Connaught Skating Club.

Competing against 37 others in the senior women's event at the Skate Canada Challenge in Regina from Dec. 1 to 5, Lee placed 12th. She also qualified for the 2022 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships in Ottawa, which took place Jan. 6 to 13.

While she placed last among the 18 skaters in her category at nationals, Lee's success at such a young age shows she has a promising future.

## How did you develop a passion for skating?

I started skating at the age of four just for fun, but my passion wasn't realized until age seven when I competed in my first competition and won gold. This inspired me to consider (skating) as more than just for fun.

## What's a time when you were faced with a challenge?

One of the biggest challenges was two weeks before the 2022 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships. I injured my leg so I was off the ice until a few days before the competition. I was close to withdrawing from the competition but with the support of my coaches, I prepared and stayed the course.

## What does your training look like?

During the school months, my routine is to attend academic classes in the morning. I am fortunate that

my school supports a special program that allows elite athletes and artists to co-ordinate their academic schedule with a special training schedule, so I usually complete my academic classes by noon and train six days a week. My training usually includes two sessions on the ice and one to two sessions off the ice.

## Are there any skaters that inspire you?

My favourite skater growing up was Una Kim from South Korea. All of her jumps are amazing to watch.

## What's the best memory of your skating career?

I always cherish the moments after a good performance on the ice. The feeling of getting off the ice and going over to my coaches is really special.

## What are your future ambitions?

My first plan is to heal from a recent injury, then focus on developing new skills, jumps and elements and prepare for next season's goal to achieve more international assignments.

## Who are you grateful for?

I want to thank my parents for all their dedication and driving from school to training sessions, and the many long hours of support. I also want to thank my coaches for supporting me and developing my skating career.

## Do you have any words of advice for future skaters?

Work hard and have fun. Enjoy the moment while you can.



Photo courtesy Connaught Skating Club  
Local figure skater Leah Lee, 16, recently attended the 2022 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships.

# Bruce Almighty: New coach revitalizes Canucks

By ALLEN COOSEMANS  
Reporter

A fresh start can often be the spark needed to get things back on track. Needless to say, that's exactly what the Vancouver Canucks needed when they were dead last in their division with an 8-15-2 record under Travis Green's coaching. The team seemed to be underperforming despite their skilled roster.

That's when, on Dec. 6, new coach Bruce Boudreau came into play.

Boudreau helped the Canucks win their first seven straight under his leadership, tying a National Hockey League (NHL) record for the longest winning streak to begin a tenure with a new team. In doing this, he impressively surpassed Patrick Roy with six consecutive wins as Colorado Avalanche coach in 2013-14 and matched a record set by the New Jersey Devils' Jacques Lemaire in 1993-94 and the Calgary Flames' Geoff Ward in 2019-20.

Boudreau has received a ton of praise from Vancouver Canucks fans and media.

He was less than 24 hours into his role as coach when the fans started a chant: "Bruce, there it is!"

Before long, even the in-house DJ, Tom Fleming, caught on and started

playing Tag Team's legendary song "Whoop! (There It Is)," which inspired the chants.

Fans were so loud they could be heard over the broadcasters.

Boudreau said in all his years as a player and coach, he's never heard that chant before. He noted the reception is unlike anything he's ever experienced.

"The thing about 'Bruce, there it is!' is that they make it about me. And I don't want it to be about me," said the veteran NHL coach. "It's about the players. They're the ones who are doing the work, they're the ones who are committing themselves to doing things the right way."

Boudreau wasn't always a coach. The former centre played 141 games in the NHL—134 for the Toronto Maple Leafs from 1976 to 1982 and the remainder for the Chicago Blackhawks in the 1985-86 season.

He went on to work behind benches in the minor leagues for several years before being named head coach of the Washington Capitals in the 2007-08 NHL season. That season, after guiding the struggling Capitals through a bounce back campaign, Boudreau received the Jack Adams Award for being the league's top head coach.

The Canucks seem to be in good hands with Boudreau. He has offered hope and positivity since his first days with the club. He inspires change, a step in the right direction and most importantly a fresh new start.



# Art studio helps artists protect the environment

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE  
Reporter

Liyuan Liu created Richmond's Visual Arts Academy in 2011 with the goal of encouraging art students to expand their knowledge, practice a variety of techniques and develop their own professional art portfolios.

To celebrate the school's 10th anniversary, Liu organized a tote bag design contest in response to the new single-use plastic ban taking effect in the city of Richmond on March 27.

City staff estimate that more than 35 million plastic checkout bags, plastic straws, foam cups and containers are disposed of in Richmond each year. In 2022, the city has decided to make its environmental impact an urgent matter, requiring residents to opt for reusable bags that are machine washable and can withstand over 100 uses.

The average Canadian uses 200 to 300 bags each year, so in theory using reusable bags could reduce that number to just three bags per year. A cotton bag made of 100 per cent natural fibre is durable and lightweight. It also has a relatively low environmental impact when discarded into the environment.

While Richmondites transition to more environmentally conscious practices, it is essential that members of the community take action in their own ways to create alternatives to single-use plastic bags. That's where Liu's tote bag competition fits in.

For Liu, what matters most is that her students know the environment belongs to them and is an important part of their future. The plastic ban, happening in conjunction with the COVID-19 pandemic, has been worrisome for people who are struggling financially. Liu wanted to find a way to show that hard times can also provide a way to spread positivity in the community.

Liu believes that art can be used to express a desire to protect the environment. She also sees her tote bag design contest as a way to battle some of the mental health impacts of pandemic lockdowns. People have been increasingly anxious about communing with each other during the pandemic and Liu wants to encourage people to see that there are many ways we can express ourselves through art.

"We still have other ways to communicate with each other. Reach out to friends and family and design art together. Art can help change people's perspectives and remind us to be grateful for the little things," she says.

The contest was organized and evaluated by Visual Arts Academy, YKLM Company, and Rise Media. The prestigious lineup of judges included revered oil painter Xue Yanqun, well-recognized Chinese painter Xu Yiwen, designer of space installations Chen Yi, and art teachers from some Richmond and Van-



Zeng Yijia's design won first place.

*Images courtesy Liyuan Liu*

couver high schools.

The judges carefully selected the winners that best represented the ideas of living in harmony with nature and inspiring people to protect their natural resources and ecological environment.

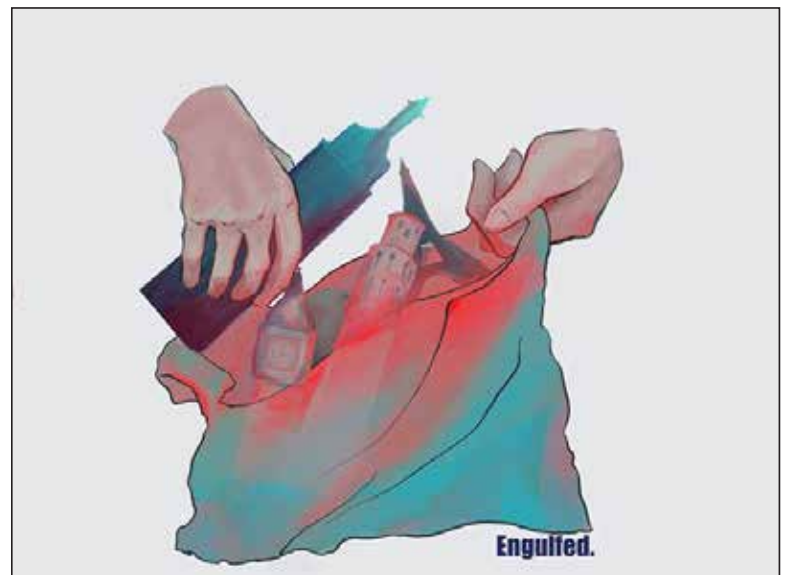
Among the winners are three Richmond students, with 14-year-old Richmond Secondary School student Zeng Yijia taking home first place honours. Two Steveston-London students were recognized in third place: 14-year-old Michelle Wang and 17-year-old Patrick Yang.

An awards ceremony will be held at the Lipont Gallery on April 23. The winners will participate in an artistic exchange activity with audience members.

Support Visual Arts Academy by visiting their website [vaaedu.com/](http://vaaedu.com/) to purchase a reusable bag decorated with one of these inspiring works of art or to make a donation.



Patrick Yang was one of three third place winners.



Michelle Wang was one of three third place winners.

# Art Gallery exhibition explores nourishment

By HANNAH SCOTT

Local Journalism Initiative reporter

The Richmond Art Gallery just opened its newest exhibition *NOURISH*, which aims to help people find connections to nourishment and care. The exhibition features American poet and writer Jane Wong and Greater Vancouver artist duo Mizzonk (Wan-Yi Lin and Roger Chen).

Curator Nan Capogna says the exhibition is the culmination of nearly two years of planning, after the pandemic delayed her initial plans. However the pandemic also provided a new backdrop for this combination of Wong and Mizzonk's works.

"We created a new context for bringing these two works together, and issues around nourishment and care seem to come up in (both). I felt that they were very different, but there was also an alignment in terms of some of their themes," Capogna explains.

"I hope (people) are able to find connections with the work, the ideas in the work, (and) that there is a connection with their own lives. I anticipate that people will be really quite moved by the works because they are narratives that are quite common to everyone."

The art gallery is also offering public programming that accompanies the exhibition, which runs through April 3. To learn more, go to [richmondart-gallery.org/nourish](http://richmondart-gallery.org/nourish)

## Sculpting with words

Wong started writing as a youngster growing up in New Jersey. She often spent time at her family's restaurant or the public library across the street.

"So many of the books I read at the public library never featured protagonists who looked like me or had my experience," she says. "It felt really important to me as a young person to share my heritage and my own Chinese-American experience."

Wong's main piece on display at the Richmond Art Gallery is called *After Preparing the Altar, The Ghosts Feast Feverishly*. To read the whole poem, people must walk around the table and look at bowls that hold fragments of the text.

"On the page, to some degree, a poem has to begin and end somewhere," says Wong. "The fact that it's on the table now as a sculpture, the poem literally does not end. To translate that into a sculpture gives another voice or breath of air to a poem."

She adds that her mom's family is able to experience her work despite not having strong English skills. She appreciates being able to lift her words off the page and give them a new shape.

Wong's mom, a gifted storyteller she describes as the "centre of the party," is her primary inspiration. But the cultural and sensory nature of food is also a source of ideas and motivation.

"During COVID and the early days of quarantine,



Photo by Jueqian Fang

Jane Wong's sculptural poem *After Preparing the Altar, The Ghosts Feast Feverishly* is on display at Richmond Art Gallery.

I had a lot of trouble focusing on writing anything. So I would just cook. Then I (thought): that's a poem, maybe this soup is a poem," says Wong.

She wants people to take away the contrasting ideas of gluttony and scarcity. The table poem also evokes the history of hunger in many Chinese families, tracing back to the period prior to the Cultural Revolution when millions starved to death. Wong says the voice of the bowls is that of her family members who didn't survive, but who want to pass on a message of celebrating and sharing a meal.

"Even though it's such a dark, grief-filled, loss-filled time (with) a lot of trauma, I really wanted this poem to feel joyful like a feast," says Wong.

And in the accompanying video piece, Wong cuts the words of her poem out of rice paper, folds them into dumplings and eats them. She's grateful for the connection between folding dumplings—which she did at her family's restaurant growing up—and the poetry that consumes her time now.

## Inspired by open space

Mizzonk's work *Six Acres* is named after the duo's home, a property of the same size. Wan-Yi Lin and Roger Chen have collaborated since sharing a studio in Brooklyn, New York, and find inspiration in the natural environment that surrounds them. *Six Acres* came about in 2019 when Lin was working with watercolour paint for the first time.

"I think naturally both of us are very hands-on people, so we like to explore possibilities through

mediums," says Lin. "In a natural setting like this, we're very into the introspection and reflection and very interested in the topics of self-observing, so our place has really set a foundation for us in our art practice."

Lin and Chen made the move from New York following the events of 9/11. Chen explains the tragedy made them realize that life can be fragile and short, in addition to impacting their business in architectural model-making.

"We had a chance to reflect on what we really want to do with our lives and where we want to live, and it was very clear that we wanted the freedom to create rather than to provide services to others. It's always been a dream of mine ever since I was a kid to live in nature, so we followed our hearts and our intuition and moved to a rural place," says Chen.

The piece on display in Richmond is a video installation made by animating a series of watercolour drawings. This is the first time the animations will be shown, and Lin continues to work on more paintings for the series.

"Just have a little faith in intuition, and don't underestimate what taking a stroll in nature can do," says Lin of the takeaways she hopes people have.

"For us, nature really reminds us that we are connected to something larger. The way we see humans and nature is that they're connected, not separated. So spending time in nature is like spending time with ourselves, which is self-care."

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# Entrepreneur aiming to make the world a better place

By ANGEL ST. GEORGE  
Reporter

Angel Lam is a local artisan whose sustainable beauty brand Liv'Ez (Live Easy) Co. is catching eyes and winning awards for excellence in sustainable business practices.

The inspiration for Lam's brand started with wanting to solve her own skin care needs. She suffered from adult acne, but was determined to find a sustainable solution.

"Adult acne itself is a bit different than the kind that people suffer from as a teenager that just goes away—adult acne can be forever," says Lam. "That meant my skin was always in a state of flux. It would be sensitive one day and dry or oily on the others. Products would work for a couple (of) months, but then I would have to stop them and try another one. That's what led me to develop my own sustainable brand."

Lam says her skin's changing needs led to a lot of leftover products that ended up in the garbage, which made her feel bad.

"It's not just the energy that goes into these products, it's the packaging, the marketing, the efforts of the staff who made the products. So many things are lost when we're wasteful," says Lam.

She searched for a formulation that would heal her skin ailments and yield better results than the products available to her at the time. When she didn't find exactly what she needed, she decided to create her own products.

When Lam started looking into skin care formulation, she was inclined to choose plant-based ingredients because they had the best results. She says her skin loves shea butter and nourishing oils like sweet almond, peach kernel,



Photo courtesy Angel Lam  
**Angel Lam is the founder of Liv'Ez (Live Easy) Co.**

argan and all the other luxurious extracts found in her products.

"Using natural products helped my skin a lot, especially healing from acne," says Lam.

Lam's first step in creating her skin care line was to reach out to experts for a scientific explanation as to why certain formulations work better than others. The research showed that small-batch vegan products are the best way to nourish skin while having a low environmental impact.

Environment is an important ethical factor for Lam, leading her to align the Liv'Ez brand with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and the No Issue Eco Packaging Alliance.

Liv'Ez was the 2021 Gold Prize winner for Spring Activator's Growth Challenge. This award recognizes the business as one of 50 in BC that are impactful and have a practical growth plan that addresses the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

When asked what her secret to success is, Lam says: "I'm very purpose-driven. Whatever way I can push my purpose forward, that's what I'll gravitate toward. I just want to know I'm leaving the world a better place—that's my calling."

Along with cruelty-free, vegan and sustainable products, Lam's vision for her brand matches its name: "Live Easy."

"When I develop products (I use) a holistic approach," says Lam. "We look at each ingredient and get certifications for where they come from. We make sure we are doing our best to increase our sustainability impact."

That goal also extends to packaging, which is made from recycled materials. And Lam says making Liv'Ez products more widely available will further boost sustainability impact.

"At the end of the day, consumers are expected to do so much work for every purchase they make to have a sustainable impact on the environment. If I can make it easier for people to make good choices, which goes into the name Liv'Ez, it makes it easier for people to live up to their sustainability goals. The best way to get people to live a more sustainable life is to make it easy for them," says Lam.

Lam will be re-releasing last year's sought-after Valentine's Day collection which includes a delicious, sweet and fresh scented soap made with real strawberry juice. Support local this upcoming Valentine's Day and gift your sweetheart something special from Liv'Ez.

## STR8TS

No number can be repeated in any row or column. Rows and columns are divided by black squares into compartments. Each compartment must contain a 'straight,' a set of numbers with no gaps in any order, eg. [4,2,3,5]. Numbers in black cells are not part of straights but also cannot be repeated in their row or column.

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